

February 4, 2008

KENTUCKY: January can be summed up as a dry month. For the 10th month out of the past twelve it received below normal rainfall.

January started off where 2007 ended with dry weather. For the third straight week below normal rainfall was experienced. Temperatures broke a three week trend of above normal as the coldest temperatures of the season were reported. Temperatures dropped into the single digits on January 2 and 3. Keeping with the trend of extremely dramatic Kentucky weather, toward the end of the week near record highs in the 60's was experienced. Temperatures for the period averaged 29.1 degrees across the state which was 5.6 degrees below normal and 8.9 degrees cooler than last week. Rainfall for the week totaled .25 in. statewide which was 0.73 in. below normal.

Above normal temperatures and rainfall were experienced the second week of January. The second week of 2008 proved to be a wet one for the Bluegrass State. Separate fronts swept through the region while a very unseasonably warm, moist air mass was in place. This allowed for widespread showers and thunderstorms with some thunderstorms reaching severe criteria. Temperatures for the period averaged 49 degrees across the state which was 17.4 degrees above normal and 19.9 degrees above last week. Rainfall for the period totaled 1.73 in. statewide which was 0.80 in. above normal.

For the third week of January temperatures and precipitation were both below normal. Temperatures were seasonal with light mixed precipitation. This was the second week in the past three to see below normal temperatures and rainfall. Central Kentucky continued to be right on the rain/snow line as weather systems from the Gulf of Mexico and Canada clashed in the lower Ohio River Valley. The weekend was dominated by an arctic air mass that dropped lows into the single digits throughout much of the Commonwealth. Temperatures for the period averaged 27 degrees across the state which was 4 degrees below normal and 22 degrees colder than the previous week. Rainfall for the week totaled 0.13 in. statewide which was 0.59 in. below normal.

For the fourth week below normal temperatures and precipitation continued. The week was very cold with arctic air dominating most of the State. Single digit temperatures occurred during the latter half of the work week. This was the second week in a row with below normal temperatures and precipitation. Temperatures for the period averaged 25 degrees across the state which was 9 degrees below normal and two degrees colder than the previous week. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.06 in. statewide which was 0.67 in. below normal.

For the fifth week in January temperatures and rainfall were above normal. January concluded with above normal rainfall in the State for just the second week out of the past six. The majority of this rainfall came on the night of January 29th as a powerful squall line swept across the Bluegrass causing heavy rain and wind gusts approaching 80 mph. A southerly flow kept temperatures above normal and provided ample moisture for showers and thunderstorms. Temperatures for the period averaged 37 degrees which was 4 degrees above normal and 12 degrees higher than the previous week. Rainfall for the period totaled 1.31 in. statewide which was 0.42 in. above normal.

Producers hauled grain and livestock to market and attended various commodity meetings across the state. Fall seeded grains remain in mostly good condition with minimal winterkill.